REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for courtesies extended during the Examiner Interview of May 19, 2005.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-26 are currently pending in this application. Claim 26 has been newly added by this reply. Claims 1, 4, 6, 16, 22, and 24 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 4, 6, 16, and 22.

Claim Amendments

As discussed during the Examiner Interview of May 19, 2005, Applicant has amended the independent claims to recite that the usage specification is sent "as an argument" to the application-independent interface or service layer in between distributed collaborating components. Support for this amendment may be found, for example, on page 7, paragraph 25 of the specification. Further, claim 26 has been newly added by this reply. Claim 26 is dependent off of claim 1 and recites the same subject matter as originally in claims 7 and 17 of the application as filed. Thus, Applicant asserts that no new subject matter is added by way of these amendments.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,496,865 ("Sumsion") in view of Admitted Prior Art (APA). Independent claims 1 and 22 have been amended by this reply to clarify the present invention as recited. To

the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the usage specification is sent to the application-independent interface *as an argument*. As suggested by the Examiner during the Examiner Interview of May 19, 2005, and on page 8 of the final Office Action mailed April 19, 2005, the amendment made to independent claim 1 clarifies how the usage specification is sent to the application-independent interface. The usage specification specifies the attributes of the server object needed by the client. The application-independent interface finds the server object, interprets the usage specification to determine the selective object attributes to fetch, fetches the requested attributes from the server object, and returns the data to the client component (see, *e.g.,* page 7 of the specification).

Applicant respectfully asserts that Sumsion fails to teach a usage specification as recited in independent claim 1. On page 8 of the Office Action mailed April 19, 2005, the Examiner asserts that Sumsion teaches translating the request parameters from Java to the C programming language. However, as discussed and agreed upon during the Examiner Interview of May 19, 2005, translating a request from one language to another language is not equivalent to a usage specification as recited in the claims because the usage specification specifies attributes of an *object* (not simply a language). Further, APA fails to disclose that which Sumsion lacks.

Thus, it is clear that independent claim 1 is patentable over Sumsion and APA, whether considered separately or in combination. Dependent claim 3 is patentable for at least the same reasons. Further, independent claim 22 has been amended to recite similar allowable subject matter (*i.e.,* sending a usage specification as an argument) and is patentable over Sumsion and

APA for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 6-9 and 12-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sumsion in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,751,798 ("Schofield"). Independent claims 6 and 16 have been amended by this reply to clarify the present invention as recited. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

As described above, independent claim 6 has been amended to recite that the usage specification is sent to the interposing service layer as an argument. Sumsion fails to teach this limitation, as admitted by the Examiner on page 4 of the Office Action mailed April 19, 2005 and during the Examiner Interview of May 19, 2005. Further, Schofield fails to disclose that which Sumsion lacks. Schofield discloses a method for performing distributed object calls. Specifically, an object reference to an object is obtained and used to create a proxy handle data structure that will represent the object. The proxy handle is passed to a client application stub function which calls the object. A server application allocates memory for implementing the call, implements the object, and de-allocates the memory for the object call. The server application then responds to the client, whereupon the client makes another object call using the same proxy handle or destroys the proxy handle.

Schofield is completely unrelated to restricting access between distributed system components because Schofield clearly discloses direct communication between the server and the client in order to perform object calls. Thus, it is not possible for Schofield to disclose specifying a usage specification, as defined in the claimed invention, as an argument to an interposing server layer. Thus, it is clear that amended independent claim 6 is patentable over Sumsion and Schofield, whether considered separately or in combination. Dependent claims 7-9

and 12-15 are patentable for at least the same reasons. Further, independent claim 16 includes similar allowable subject matter and is patentable over Sumsion and Schofield for at least the same reasons. Dependent claims 17-19 are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested. Additionally, because newly added dependent claim 26 includes the same subject matter as dependent claims 7 and 17, claim 26 is also patentable for at least the same reasons.

Claims 4, 5, 20, 23, and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sumsion, APA, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,760,747 ("Allard"). Independent claims 4, 16, 22, and 24 have been amended by this reply to clarify the present invention as recited. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to the rejection of the claims, the Examiner admits that Sumsion and APA do not teach or suggest a logic execution specification. With respect to Allard, the Examiner references col. 4, ll. 44-46 of Allard in asserting that Allard teaches a logic execution specification. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner and points out that although Allard discloses a method that is invoked and sent to the server to add a book to an order, Allard does not disclose or suggest a logic execution specification *sent as an argument* as recited in the amended claims.

Amended independent claim 4 recites that the logic execution specification is specified to the application-independent interface as an argument, and *not* directly to the server. The application-independent interface includes functionality to receive the logic execution specification as an argument, execute business logic in response to the logic execution specification, and subsequently returns the result to the client that sent the logic execution

specification (*e.g.,* page 8, paragraph 27 of the present specification). The point of the present invention is to restrict direct communication between the client and the server, using the application-independent interface. In contrast, Allard teaches directly sending the method for adding a book to an order from the client to the server, without involving the logic execution specification (see, *e.g.,* col. 4, ll. 44-46 of Allard).

Thus, amended independent claim 4 is patentable over Sumsion, APA, and Allard, whether considered separately or in combination. Dependent claim 5 is patentable for at least the same reasons. Further, amended independent claims 16, 22, and 24 include similar allowable subject matter and are patentable over Sumsion, APA, and Allard for at least the same reasons as independent claim 4. Dependent claims 20 and 23 are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sumsion in view of Schofield and further in view of APA. Independent claim 6 has been amended by this reply to clarify the present invention as recited. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.
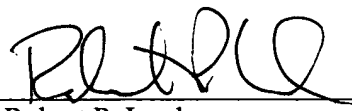
As described above, Sumsion, Schofield, and APA fail to teach a usage specification sent as an argument to an interposing service layer (*i.e.,* application-independent interface) that restricts direction communication between distributed system components (*e.g.,* a client and a server). Thus, independent claim 6 is patentable over Sumsion, Schofield, and APA, whether considered separately or in combination. Dependent claims 10 and 11 are patentable over Sumsion, Schofield, and APA for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 16159/023001).

Dated: June 13, 2005   Respectfully submitted,

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